

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6546

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

RUESDAXAMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 1577

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5781

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UN

SUBJECT: POLAND ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN UNEF

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

FOR THE SECRETARY

SUMMARY: POLAND'S MEMBERSHIP ON THE UNEF AT MOSCOW'S BEHEST IS AROLE THE POLISH LEADERSHIP MUST HAVE ASSUMED WITH GREAT MISGIVINGS. WE BELIEVE IT IS AN UNPOPULAR DECISION AMONG THE POLISH POPULACE. MOREOVER, THE GOP SURELY RECOGINIZES THAT IT WILL BE UNDER STRONG AND CONFLICTING PRSSURES FROM THE USSR, THE ARABS, AND THE US. FOR MONTHS, THE GOP HAS BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF TIS ICCS ROLE ON US-POLISH RELATIONS AND
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STRESSING ITS DESIRE TO RELINQUISH THE PEACEKEEPING RESPONSIBLIITIES IT HAS BORNE THE PAST 20 YEARS.

THE POLISH LEADERSHIP MAY USE THIS NEW UNEF ROLE AS A PRETEXT TO JUSTIFY REDUCTIONS IN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO

THE ICCS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SUGGEST NOW TO THE GOP THAT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT POLISH PARTICIPATION IN THE UNEF SHOULD NOT HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS AND THAT WE ALSO EXPECT THE ICCS TO UNDERTAKE VIGOROUS PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS PRESCRIBED FOR IT BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CENTRAL PRESS OCTOBER 4 ANNOUNCED THE GOP AND PZPR POLITBURO DECISION TO SEND A POLISH CONTINGENT TO PARTICIPATE IN UNEF AT THE INVITATION OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. WHILE PROVIDING NO DETAILS OF NUMBERS AND TYPES OF POLISH MILITARY UNITS WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED AND OMITTING REFERENCE TO THE LOGISTICAL FUNCTION THEY WILL HAVE, PRESS REPORTS CHARACTERIZE THE UN REQUEST AS A SIGN OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE " POSITION AND AUTHORITY OF THE PEACEFUL POLICY" OF POLAND AND THE POLISH ACCEPTANCE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE, SECURITY, AND DETNENTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE " GENERAL POLICY OF THE GOP, THE USSR, AND THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY." THE EMBASSY ISSUED VISAS NOVEMBER 3 TO FOUR POLISH COLONELS AND AN MFA REPRESENTATIVE AT MFA REQUEST FOR SCHEDULED DEPARTURE NOVEMBER 5 FOR NEW YORK IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN UN CONSULTATIONS ON UNEF. PRESS NOVEMBER 6 ALSO ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF GROUP OF UNSPECIFIED SIZE FOR CAIRO.

2. THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH MAY BE READ AS AN OFFICIAL GOP STATEMENT, CALLS FOR RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN RESOLUTION 242, "INCLUDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES IT HAS OCCUPIED SINCE 1967," PROVIDING APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES FOR THE SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL THE STATES IN THE REGION, AND RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "APPROPRIATE UN RESOLUTIONS."

3. THE RELATIVELY CAUTIOUS TONES OF THE CENTRAL-PRESS PRESENTATION GAVE WAY TO SOMEWHAT GREATER STRIDENCY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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A COMMENTARY ON OCTOBER 5 IN THE MILITARY DAILY, ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI, WHICH ON THE ONE HAND BLAMED THE SERIES OF CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON "ISRAELI AGGRESSION" AND IN THE NEXT BREATH STATED THAT, DESPITE POLAND'S SYMPATHY FOR "NATIONS FIGHTING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE." IT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS "OBJECTIVITY IN EVALUATING THE SOURCES AND REASONS FOR ARMED CONFLICTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD." EXUDING MILITARY PRIDE AT THE SELECTION OF POLAND FOR THIS "RESPONSIBLE AND HONORABLE TASK," ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI POINTS OUT THAT POLISH UNITS ON THE UNEF WILL BE REPRESENTING THE WARSAW PACT, OF WHICH THEY ARE A STEADFAST LINK."

4. COMMENT. POLAND'S SUPERFICIALLY EAGER ENTRY INTO UNEF QUITE CLEARLY INVOLVES THE ASSUMPTION OF THE TASK OF CATSPA W AT THE BEHEST OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE DECISION IS AN UNPOPULAR ONE IN A COUNTRY WHERE, WITH REGARD TO A CONTEST BETWEEN ISRAEL BACKED BY THE US AND ARABS BACKED BY THE USSR, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IS STRONGLY PRO-ISRAELI. THIS ROLE CAN HAVE BEEN ASSUMED BY THE POLISH LEADERSHIP ONLY WITH GREAT MISGIVINGS, SINCE THEY REALIZE THAT THEY WILL BE UNDER STRONG AND CONFLICTING PRESSURES FROM THE USSR, THE ARABS, AND THE US AS THE UNEF UNDERTAKES ITS DIFFICULT TASK. IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS, THESE MISGIVINGS MUST BE ACUTE, AS THE POLISH LEADERS CONSIDER THE PROSPECT OF CLOSE SCRUTINY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISH UNEF CONTINGENT BY AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL.

5. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS FOR MONTHS BEEN COMPLAINING TO US THAT POLAND HAD HAD ITS FILL OF PEACEKEEPING RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS. WE MUST NOW CONTEMPLATE THE PROBABILITY THAT THE GOP WILL SOONER OR LATER USE THIS NEW INVOLVEMENT AS A PRETEXT FOR JUSTIFYING REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE ICCS.

6. RECOMMENDATION: IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO REGISTER IMMEDIATELY WITH THE GOP OUR CONCERN THAT PARTICIPATION IN UNEF SHOULD NOT DIMINISH POLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN ICCS. CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONALLY, SUCH A REPRESENTATION SHOULD GIVE THE GOP ARGUMENTATION IT COULD USE WITH THE SOVIETS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIMINISH THE EFFECT OF PRESSURE TO USE THE POLISH UNEF PRESENCE IN A MANNER WHICH COULD HARM US-POLISH RELATIONS. I SHOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE A LOW-KEY PRESENTATION TO VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SPASOWSKI, STRESSING THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

7. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT POLISH PARTICIPATION IN UNEF SHOULD NOT HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS.

B. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US ON THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM POLISH PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS. WE WANT AT THIS TIME TO REAFFIRM OUR STRONG INTEREST IN THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF THE ICCS. NOW THAT THE IRANIAN DELEGATION HAS JOINED ICCS, WE EXPECT THAT BODY TO UNDERTAKE THE VIGOROUS PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS PRESCRIBED FOR IT BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT. AS YOU KNOW, WE EXPECT THE POLISH DELEGATION TO PERFORM ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN AN IMPARTIAL AND OBJECTIVE

FASHION.

C. I SHOULD ADD INFORMALLY THAT THE PERFORMANCE
OF THE POLISH CONTINGENT IN THE UNEF WILL BE THE
OBJECT OF OUR ATTENTION AS WE STRIVE TO MAINTAIN THE
CEASEFIRE AND TO ACHIEVE THE RESULTS CALLED FOR BY
THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF OCTOBER 21.
DAVIES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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